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ON PAGE 35

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Prison Frees Vietnam Spy After Delay

David Truong, who was convicted in 1978 of spying for Vietnam, was released yesterday afternoon from a federal prison in Petersburg, Va., a day after his lawyers complained that a bureaucratic foul-up had delayed his release.

Truong, a well-known Washington peace activist and the son of a once prominent South Vietnamese politician, was convicted along with former U.S. Information Agency officer Ronald L. Humphrey of spying for Vietnam. After they exhausted their appeals in 1982, both men were sentenced to 15 years in prison. Federal prison officials said Humphrey is serving time in Danbury, Conn., and is not due to be released until 1990.

Officials said Truong, 40, was not released as scheduled Tuesday because prison officials were unaware that an Immigration and Naturalization Service detainer against him had been lifted. Truong's wife, Carolyn Gates, said the couple plans to live in the District until they obtain permission to move overseas. They want to live in France.